

A brief review of some Ethical Guidelines for **low-risk projects involving human participation:**

Over the years there has been some confusion or lack of understanding of the requirements for low-risk science fair projects involving humans. This is a brief overview of those requirements.

Determining whether or not a project involving humans is of high risk or low risk is the *responsibility of the supervising teacher*. We ask that teachers completely familiarize themselves with the policies. These policies can be found in the Youth Science policy directory at <http://www.youthscience.ca/policy-directory?cat=4>. (The teacher should also be familiar with the other policies in this section.)

For low-risk projects involving humans, **Form 4.1A** must be filled out, signed, and a copy brought to the fair (please read the instructions).

If a survey is being conducted, a **copy of the survey** must be brought to the fair.

A Letter of Information must be given to every participant. If a participant is under 19, the Letter of Information must be given to the parent or guardian. For younger participants, the information must be explained to them in terms they can understand.

Each participant (or parent/guardian) must fill out an **Informed Consent form**. **A copy of this form** must be brought to the fair. Note: if a project is of very low risk (listening to music at normal volume, for example), informed consent may be assumed and Informed Consent forms are not required.

Consumption of food or drink may or may not be low risk. *Please read the policy.*

The consumption of caffeine in projects is subject to daily limits. *Please read the policy.*

Exercise testing may or may not be low risk. *Please read the policy.*

The consumption of alcohol and the use of natural health products are prohibited in any science fair project.

The supervising teacher must be fully aware of these policies and ensure that the students are also aware of them.

The rules for Significant-Risk projects are far more stringent than those outlined here. The policies must be read and followed with utmost attention and care.

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